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History of the Bray family
Hitchita, Oklahoma
By Robert Bray

Nathan V. Bray is a son of W. C. and Isabella Bray and was born in Troup County, Georgia. His grandfather emigrated from England in 1830, to the United States. Soon afterward he settled in Troup County, Georgia, and was one of the pioneer physicians to practice in that part of the state. He also conducted a large plantation, worked by slave labor. His wife was Julia Walton, a niece of George Walton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and a representative of a family whose settlement in America dated before the Revolution.

W. C. Bray, the father, was reared on the Troup County plantation, and became a large employer of slave labor himself. They naturally believed in the cause of the South during the Civil War, and he served as First Lieutenant for Captain Anthony Gore's Company. He fought bravely in Lee's army of Virginia but was captured at Roanoke Island. For three months he was imprisoned in the hold of a vessel on a regular diet of pickled pork and bad crackers. After this he was glad enough to be exchanged and rejoin the Confederate Ranks before the conclusion of the War. He attained the rank of Colonel

in the Southern army before the end of the ~~end-of-the~~ war. He then returned to Group county, and until his death in 1880, was engaged in a brave attempt to rebuild his shattered fortune.

Nathan F. Bray received his education in the public schools and under private instructors, first coming west in 1879 and three years later settling in the Choctaw Nation, of Indian Territory. From here he moved over into the Chickasaw country, living some ten years in this section of the present Oklahoma. His four years in the Choctaw Nation were spent in lumbering, and the remainder of this period he was a resident of Davis, Chickasaw Nation. Here he was engaged in ginning and the mercantile business.

In 1892 Mr. Bray located in what is now McIntosh County, and here he went to farming and raising livestock. Although conditions have greatly changed since the free range was abolished, Mr. Bray adapted himself to the new order of things, and is still happy and prosperous. For eighteen years Nathan Bray resided within a mile of his present home near Council Hill, McIntosh county. When measured by the standards of the new country, in which he has done well, this makes him

an old settler.

For more than a quarter of a century he has been an active figure in agricultural and livestock raising of the Indian Territory, and Oklahoma. In 1892 when he moved from what is now McIntosh county, near Council Hill, there was only one house between that point and Muskogee. This is a distance of sixteen miles and there were only two residences occupied by white men within the fifteen miles between Council Hill and Checotah. The entire country for miles around was simply a vast prairie covered with great herds of cattle and horses, a paradise, as it was free range for the farmers and stockmen.

Mr. Bray died in 1914 and is buried in the Council Hill cemetery.